

- Canvas neighborhood, door-to-door, to recruit members.
- Involve everyone-young, old, single, married, renter, and homeowner. Allow each person to contribute opinions and ideas without letting any one person to dominate the meetings.
- Gain support from and bond with the law enforcement community. Success can only be achieved through their involvement Canvas neighborhood, door-to-door.
- Get information out quickly. Share all kinds of news and squash rumors.
- Gather facts about crime in your neighborhood. Do victimization surveys, and learn residents' perceptions about crimes and what their individual concerns are. Accurate information in some instances can reduce the fear of crime.
- The broken window theory applies to all communities. Physical conditions such as overgrown vacant lots can contribute to crime. Sponsor cleanups, and ask residents to turn on outdoor lights at night.
- It is important to recognize success and volunteers' contributions. This can be accomplished through

TO REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS PHONE 1-800-237-5712

Or email: **wildcrime@dgif.state.va.us**. For all other suspicious activities contact your local Sheriff's Department



VIRGINIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

The Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to: VA. Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, ATTN.: Compliance Officer, 4010 West Broad St. Richmond, VA 23230-1104

10/27/99

For more information or for information on forming a Wildlife Crime Watch contact your local Game Warden.

Visit our Web Site at: **<http://www.dgif.state.va.us>**

**YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA SPORTSMAN'S
REWARD FUND, INC. BY SENDING YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE
DONATIONS TO: VIRGINIA CRIME LINE, 4010 WEST BROAD
STREET, RICHMOND, VA. 23230-1104**

WILDLIFE CRIME WATCH

STARTING A WILDLIFE CRIME WATCH



A PARTNERSHIP FOR WILDLIFE, THE ENVIRONMENT, PROPERTY AND PEOPLE

Starting A Wildlife Crime Watch

Wildlife Crime Watch is similar to the well-known program, *Neighborhood Watch*. Watch groups can be the foundation of community crime prevention. The Wildlife Crime Watch encompasses the foundation of the *Neighborhood Watch* program with an additional concentration of members' attention/alertness to potential Wildlife/Game Law violations

Phase One: Getting Started -- Meetings Watch Captains, Maps

- Form a small planning committee of neighbors. A discussion of needs, determining a level of interest, possible program challenges desired outcomes and the Wildlife Crime Watch concept is all pre-initial meeting topics.
- Contact your local Game Warden at the local Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Regional Office to request their involvement. Coordinate schedules for their attendance at the initial meeting.
- Publicize your initial meeting at least two weeks in advance through local newspapers, radio stations, cable television stations and door-to-door fliers (if financially viable). Follow-up with

known attendees a few days prior to the meeting.

- Chose an initial meeting location that is conducive to the group size (make sure that the meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities).
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors' interest. Establish the purpose of the program. Begin to identify potential Wildlife Watch program issues if attendee concerns are indicated. Stress the core of this program is to form an association of neighbors who look out for the wildlife, environment and each other's families and property, assist law enforcement officials by reporting suspicious activities and crimes in progress in order to make their community safer and a better place to live.

Phase Two: When the neighborhood decides to adopt the Wildlife Crime Watch idea

- Elect a neighborhood captain.
- After leadership roles are established, determine a communication means with Wildlife Crime Watch members (e.g., phone trees, newsletter, e-mail, fax).
- Prepare and distribute a neighborhood map showing names, addresses, and

contact means of participating households.

- Establish regular meeting dates that coincide with crucial seasonal time frames when illegal activity occurs.

Game Wardens will advise Wildlife Crime Watch members on how to properly look for illegal activity, crime reporting protocol (Virginia Wildlife Crime Report Line at 1-800-237-5712 or local law enforcement) and current wildlife management and environmental issues. The Wildlife Watch program concept is flexible. It will adapt to the needs of each community and will promote cooperation and communication between the citizens and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as well as the local law enforcement community.

Tips for Success

- Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and to collectively decide upon program strategies and activities.
- Consider links with other existing organizations (i.e., civic, sportsman groups).